



FRG FAMILY READINESS GROUP

Newsletter Date

November



Special Interest Articles:

- Cookie bake
- Battalion Commander Visit



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Cookie Bake



Starting at NOON, Saturday **Nov 22nd**, we will host a COOKIE BAKE and PACKAGEING gathering at the North Riverside Armory. Due to the large number of cookies required, we are encouraging you to bring BAKED cookies. We will have pans, ovens available to bake some cookies but due to the anticipated quantity of cookies we will need we urge you to bake your cookies at home and bring them for packaging and shipping. Once the cookies baked on Saturday have cooled we will package them and those brought for shipment to our soldiers.

The intent is to have large enough quantity of cookies so that we can make a cookie package for each and every 1244th soldier deployed in Kuwait. We have almost 170 soldiers to make cookies for, so be sure to join us for this fun time.

We will need a lot help finishing the baking and packaging all the cookies to get them in the mail in time for holiday delivery. Please join us in this fun event for our soldiers!

Battalion Commander Visit

LTC Robert Mayberry, commander of the 733rd Quartermaster Battalion and COL Ronald Morrow, 65th Troop Command, the 1244th's Illinois higher headquarters, will be attending the **Nov 14th** Pizza Night. LTC Mayberry and COL Morrow want to meet our families to learn our concerns and answer whatever questions they can. If you have questions for LTC Mayberry or COL Morrow you may submit them prior to his visit, giving them a chance to research answers if necessary. To submit question contact a Council member or email frg1244tc@yahoo.com as early as possible.





Holiday/ Christmas Party

Mark your calendars; Sunday, **Dec 14th** is the date for the 1244th's Holiday/Christmas Party. We are combining this FRG event with the drill schedule of the non-deployed soldiers, and having their Holiday meal at the same time. The party will be held at a site away from the armory where everyone can relax and have a good time.

Details for the party ARE NOT available yet! Plans are to have the party catered and held at a location away from the armory. We have a site identified but it is not large enough to hold all our families and non-deployed soldiers. Using our phone tree and email we will contact everyone as soon as a site is selected!

Due to space limitations and crowd control we **HAVE TO LIMIT ATTENDANCE TO;**

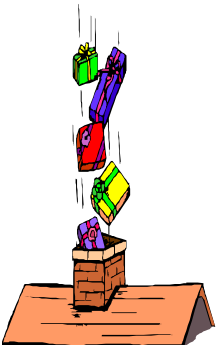
- DEPLOYED SOLDIERS SPOUSES AND THEIR CHILDREN
- PARENTS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS OF SINGLE DEPLOYED SOLDIERS
- NON-DEPLOYED SOLDIERS, THEIR SPOUSES, or SIGNIFICANT OTHERS and THEIR CHILDREN

We regret that we can we can NOT HAVE AN OPEN HOUSE for all friends and extended family members but the number of people that could attend, the size of the room required and the number of volunteers that it takes to organize an event of the type make this impossible.

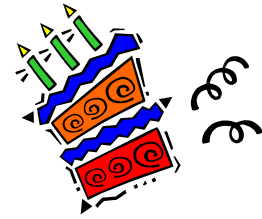
While Santa is a very knowing person, he needs help. If you and your children are planning to attend PLEASE call a council member with the names, ages and gift suggestions for your children. Please limit your suggestions to "reasonable" items, not PlayStations and other high price items.

To help offset the expense of the party, meal and gifts we are asking for a \$10 donation for each person (including children over 2). Reservations are required along with payment **by Wednesday, November 26th**. Mail your payment (check) and names of those attending to: 1244th FRG

c/o Caroline Perkins
6002 Osage Ave
Downers Grove, IL 60516-2055



Birthday Wishes



Congratulations to the following soldiers that have BIRTHDAYS in the month of November;

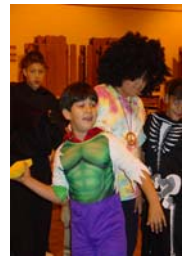
Ryback, Carissa Salazar, Francisco Sanchez, Jose Santiago, Yelivette Santiago, Aparico Santoliva, Juan Saucedo, Juan Schoenhofen, Douglas Scott, Julie Scott, Ronald Siavichay, Victor Sinclair, Robert Sippel, Diane Smith, Adam Smith, Kizzy Smithbanks, Candance Sounthala, Kelly and Taboada, Joel

Halloween Party



We would like to thank everyone for coming to our first Halloween Party. We had great time! It was nice to see the children and a few council members in their Halloween costumes. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough adults to volunteer to help out with the activities and children. We will have to be more prepared for our next gatherings. We would appreciate it if some of the adults who attend future gatherings can participate in some of the activities and help out with the children. That way, everyone will have a good time.

Congratulations to the winners of the costume contest. Everyone had on great costumes.



We would like to thank Bob for taking pictures of some of the children in their costumes. So they can take them home or to send them to their soldiers in Kuwait. The children had fun playing a game called throw the wet sponge at the soldier! SSG Langs volunteer to be that soldier. So we would like to thank SSG Langs for being a good sport.

There was a haunted house, toss games, bobbing for apples and arts crafts for the children and adults. Every child received plenty of treats.

Thanks to all who contributed candy and other treats for the Halloween party. Anyone that has pictures of the party can bring them to the next Pizza Night (Nov 14th) for all to see or send them to bartolonava@aol.com so we can place them on the web site so everyone can see them on the web site.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/frg1244tc/>

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas party.

You will have a good time and Happy holidays to all!



The children are making spooky mask and picture holders.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ILLINOIS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
1244TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
APO, AE 09366

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OCT 03

Dear Families, friends, significant others, and employers,

Currently a member of your family or employee has been on active duty since February, 2003 and in Kuwait since April, 2003. There were several scenarios for redeployment that were announced in early October through the media in regards to soldiers that were deployed. The scenarios included:

1. Mission Complete Units – those units designated as complete in their missions and requested to be sent back to CONUS (Continental United States) to be removed from Active Duty.
2. Rotational Units – those units designated to wait until a replacement unit would arrive to take over the original unit's missions so that the original unit could return to CONUS.
3. Extended Units – those units determined to be in short supply or in high demand that are required to stay on Active Duty for up to 24 months in theater (OCONUS – Outside Continental United States).

Our unit was determined to be "Mission Complete" earlier this month. The Army Policy for redeployment to CONUS was stated almost two weeks ago as mobilization + 320 days. Our mobilization was 3 Feb 03. That would have made the unit eligible for redeployment around mid-December. However, due to the needs of the Army, our unit has been selected as "Force Protection".

"Force Protection" is a term used to describe guard duty for base (military post / location) elements in theater (for this unit, Kuwait). That also means that the unit will be required to remain on Active Duty until April, 2004. The unit may be selected to leave earlier, but it is doubtful. The necessity for "Force Protection" is geared toward the use of almost 800 service members. Since our mission was deemed "complete", our Group has selected our unit for this additional mission. Our soldiers have been trained and are receiving additional training to ensure the protection of our Coalition Forces and other American Servicemen and Servicewomen. This mission is estimated to be conducted near or around our current location.

The unit members will be receiving additional orders so that families and dependents can renew their Identification Cards and Family Care Plans. The orders will need to be sent to employers in order to retain their status as a viable employee. You may also use the order to aid and assist in the Soldier's and Sailors Relief Act (SSRA).

This act will help you to lower interest rates on existing loans or with creditors. This includes credit cards, mortgages, and bank loans. Please work with the Family Readiness Coordinator and Group to gain aid in these areas.

I would have liked to provide better news in regards to our return home. We had been advised of our status and had no idea that we had been selected for "Force Protection" until this morning. Please understand that as difficult as this situation is, I would ask that you remember the feelings of those remaining overseas. We are getting members home on R&R leave for a break as soon as we can. We are continuing in the rotation of troops for their 10 days of leave. Upon approval of redeployment, soldiers will receive accrued leave to take as terminal leave from Active Duty. They are estimated to be at their MOB (mobilization) station, Ft McCoy, WI for a period of one week, and at home station, North Riverside, for 4 days.

I want to thank everyone again for the moral support and care packages that we have received from several companies, individuals, and the Family Readiness Group. They really mean a lot to the soldiers. If there are packages or letters to be sent, please use the address list below. God Speed!

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, RANK

143RD / 32ND / 419TH / 1244TH Trans

APO, AE 09366

RHONDA L. PETERSEN

1LT, OD, IL ARNG

Commanding

If you have an email address, please let us know. This information is very important to us. Contact us by emailing the FRG at frg1244tc@yahoo.com as soon as possible. In the subject box write:

Family of 1244th email address request.

Be sure to include your full name, your soldier's name, your relation to the soldier, and your phone number so we can reach you if we have any questions. Thank you so much. **AS CONFUSING AS IT SEEMS WE ARE NOW BACK ON YAHOO! EMAIL IS THE MOST EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER AND OTHER INFORMATION.**

<http://yahoogroups.com>

<http://www.il.ngb.mil.1244/trans>



FUNDRAISING UPDATES



Come and get 'em. Please come pick up your fundraiser merchandise, we have many people that have ordered and have not picked up their items.

We have many products available with the 1244th on them for our soldier's families and friends to show their support. If you have not seen them, please do—they are great! If you have, you know that they are great and please recommend them to your soldier's friends and extended family for them to show their support and help our group. We all know that this is a great cause. Thanks for all of the efforts of our families to raise money for our troops boxes, shipping and essentials. Ultimately, a party to welcome our troops home, too.

This is how we are using our fundraising money to support our families and troops:

We have successfully sent our first round of boxes to our soldiers that have not been getting boxes. We have heard rumors that the soldiers got the boxes and liked the cookies and other goodies, but that has not been confirmed. Everyone is welcome to continue bringing items to meetings and outings to contribute to future boxes, but don't feel obligated, the council will make sure these soldiers are provided during this deployment. The council wants to make sure all soldiers are taken care of, so please let us know if you know of a soldier that is not getting packages by emailing us at frg1244tc@yahoo.com titled 'soldier in need'. If you know of a soldier who is not receiving letters, we are still working on the list for them to be added to so send the information to us at frg1244tc@yahoo.com titled 'write a soldier'. Please supply these resources to our council so we can support our soldiers and families more effectively.

Packages to the troops in November are started already. At the cookie bake we will be baking and packing! There will be approximately 170 (we are getting exact numbers) packages to pack with stress balls and games that we have already purchased and we will include the packet of messages written by family and friends and, of course, cookies. Money from our fundraisers purchase packing supplies, filler items, copy supplies and postage.

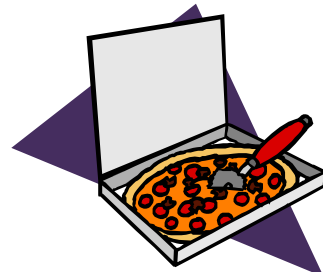
1244th merchandise will be raffled at all outings. You can purchase tickets for one dollar each at our meetings or outings and we will pull names at each outing. Raffle prizes will include 1244th flag bags, flag pins with yellow ribbons, yellow bows and even 1244th clothing. This is a chance to obtain merchandise supporting your soldier for a minimum price! Please, come show your support for our soldiers.

Thank you

The FRG council would like to extend sincere thanks to the following people for their generous contributions to our group. Thank you so much!

Just Tires Junior Bastian
Tire Valet Bill Brushaber
Ginny's Hallmark Pam Shields
VFW Post 6863 DesPlaines
Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 6863
Halloween Party Volunteers

Ongoing thanks to all who attend the FRG functions and meetings and help everyone involved by sharing and making it personal. Thank you everyone!



Coming Events

FRG Council Meetings Every other Wednesday, 7PM at the Armory, Open to all, next meeting **NOV 12th**

Nov 14th Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment.

Welcome the 1244th's Battalion Commander, LTC Mayberry and COL Morrow of the 65th Troop Command, as they join us for open discussion and dialogue. Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Nov 22nd, Noon Cookie Bake and packaging at the Armory. Bring your cookies or dough and bake as a group, package and send cookies to the 1244th.

Dec 5th, Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Dec14th, Christmas Party, Location and time to be determined. Non-deployed 1244th soldiers will join us for a holiday celebration

Jan 9th, 7 PM Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Jan 30th, 7 PM Pizza Night at the Armory. Get together to share experiences during the current deployment. Pizza \$3 for adults & \$1 under 10

Acontecimientos Que vienen

FRG Sesiones Del Consejo Cada otro miércoles, Los 7PM en el arsenal, Abrirse en todos, reunión siguiente de Nov el 12.

Nov 14 Noche de la pizza en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. Dar la bienvenida al comandante del batallón 1244th's, a los LTC Mayberry y a la columna morrow del 65.o comando de la tropa, como nos ensamblan para la discusión y el diálogo abiertos. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

Nov 22do, La galleta del mediodía cuece al horno y empaquetando en el arsenal. Traer sus galletas o pasta y cocer al horno como grupo, empaquetar y enviar las galletas al 1244th.

DEC 5ta, noche de la pizza en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

Dec14th, partido de Navidad, localización y hora de ser determinado. los 1244th soldados No-desplegados nos ensamblarán para una celebración del día de fiesta .

Noche de la pizza de enero 9no, 7 del P.M. en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10

Noche de la pizza de enero 30, 7 del P.M. en el arsenal. Reunirse para compartir experiencias durante el despliegue actual. Pizza \$3 para los adultos y \$1 debajo de 10



The FRG Council and Committee Chairs;

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fig1244tc/>

See us at:

We're on the Web!

Leader:

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soldier, Greg Brown

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Matthew Palm

Treasurer:

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Duffing

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SPC Dan Pokorny

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